

**JUSTICE COMMITTEE MEETING
Macon County Board Room #514
141 S. Main Street, Decatur, IL 62523
March 23, 2023 3:00 P.M.**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Greg Mattingley – Chair
Bill Oliver (@3:15 p.m.)
Debra Kraft
Andrew Hogan

MEMBERS ABSENT

Grant Noland

COUNTY PERSONNEL PRESENT

Sherry Doty, Circuit Clerk
Michael Day, Coroner
Sheriff Root
Jon Perona, DPBC
Michael Baggett, State’s Attorney
Michelle Sanders, Public Defender
Pat Berter, Probation
Judge Griffith, Circuit Court
Tamara Wilcox, County Administrator
Amy McKinney, Environmental Management
Kevin Greenfield, County Chairman

Chair Mattingley called the meeting to order at 3 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING

Ms. Kraft made a motion to approve the minutes from the 2/23/2023 meeting, seconded by Mr. Hogan. Motion carried 3-0.

CLAIMS

Mr. Hogan made a motion to approve the claims, seconded by Ms. Kraft. Motion carried 3-0.

REPORTS

Circuit Courts- No Report

Circuit Clerk –

Ms. Doty reported that she will be getting with the Judge because she received information on money and how much they give to the jurors. The only one that did not report was Cook County, and they are in their own little realm. I will be getting together with him and Judge Bollinger in the next week or so. It goes from anywhere of \$5.00 dollars up to \$125 per day and we can’t afford that.

Coroner – No Report

Court Services / Probation –

Mr. Berter reported that back in September I presented in one of my budget how I talked about AOIC requiring us to send them information data specific to our probation cases, specialty court cases and pretrial cases. Our case management system tracker is close to being completed. It is going to cost about \$36,000 dollars to do all this data for the State. However, the State is willing to pay up to \$36,000 dollars and will reimburse us. I am hoping that after we get all this information sent to them and they start collecting it then I will be able to bring information to Justice, good

solid information about what we are doing in probation and what is going on in pretrial and specialty courts. It stinks having to pay this kind of money, but I think the outcome of the information we provide will be very beneficial.

Ms. Doty said she would like to add to that she got one bill that we have to pay up front of \$12,000 grand which I will take care of my part of it. Soon as I get it paid than I will get that money back.

Mr. Berter stated that it was my understanding that the \$12,000 for pretrial was split between you and me.

Ms. Doty replied, "Right, but I am going to go ahead and pay it out of automation that way we can get the grant money and I will put it right back where I took it from. I got it out of my budget, and we will get it back.

Mr. Berter said I know when they talked about the whole pretrial that the Sheriff's Department jail would have to supply some information for that. With the public safety act being put on hold they are expecting the jail to supply information also. I do not know if anyone has reached out from AOIC.

Ms. Doty stated that they are out of the picture for right now.

Emergency Management Agency – No Report

Decatur Public Building Commission – No Report

Public Defender's Office – No Report

Sheriff's Department –

Sheriff Root reported that he has 270 total inmates, 32 of them are FED, 16 of them are Champaign. We only have 5 unfit which means that the Department of Health and Human Services is starting to take some because we were up to 15 at one point in time. We do have some relief and I do not know which five it is. Even though they have changed Legislation they seem to be moving the people that they need to move. They did change the Legislation to be able to extend that if they needed to.

Ms. Sander said it seems like they are going in time order. Right now, I think it is the people who have been found unfit since December. The timeline is not as bad as it was.

Sheriff Root states that they have been good at taking the ones that are in a downward decline. When we see that they are in decline we get the mental health worker to make contact and see if we can't get them into the services quicker.

Mr. Mattingley replied that he does have one question. We talked about the monetary settlement or whatever they had proposed when they were dragging their feet and parking the people here during COVID forever about taking a certain dollar figure. Is there anything more on that at this point?

Sheriff Root said we received \$660,000 dollars because of that, and it was at a reduced rate. There was never any secondary money that they offered to apply for to cover the additional cost. They only went from July of last year and we were still housing people for them past July of last year. They are starting to intake them at a normal pace now. We do not have to wait in line with 10 or 15 people to ship. We can ship one or two when they get sentenced within a week.

State's Attorney - No Report

Old Business - None

New Business -

County Board- Opiate Settlement Request

Ms. Wilcox reported that we have a request for some Opiate funds that went to the States Attorney's office. I know zero about that money and I think they are going to be looking into that.

Mr. Baggett said we received as plaintiffs in a couple of different class actions somewhere in the ballpark \$170,000 dollars as proceeds from two settlements that have gone through. One is called the Jancine settlement and the other one is the National Opioid Trust fund. There are restrictions on how we can use that money and it must be geared towards opioid mitigation. I am still in the process of working with the Attorney's General office. They were the spearhead on the lawsuits for the local government in Illinois. I am working with them on what their specific restrictions are on how we can use the money.

My understanding is that the City of Decatur received their portion of the settlement, and they were approached by Crossing and Heritage Behavior Health. They want to take the money from the city and use it toward opioid mitigation. I think the city saw that as an easy option assuming that we can do the same thing. Which if the city can do it, I see no reason why we would not be able to do the same thing. That is an easy option for us. It means we won't have to create protocols or regulations for how to appropriately use the money and report to the State how we use the money a lot easier.

The Sheriff has also mentioned the possibility of maybe doing something more in-house but again until we know exactly what the perimeters are from the Attorney General's office developing that it would be easier said than done. I don't want to encourage us to necessarily make a split-second decision on the Crossing and Heritage request until after at least the Sheriff had an opportunity to think this through given the perimeters that we must see if there is something that we could do on our own or at least make partial use of it on our own before we divvy out the money to outside entities.

Sheriff Root states we had a meeting with the one of the providers of the medication sublocade which is an injectable that helps people through their withdrawal process. Once they get on it you only must inject them once every thirty days. The people that we have in the jail are going through withdrawals. In order for them to get to that point to where they can take the medication, they have to come off the withdrawal process and that is a supplemental pill type of injection.

What we have seen in one month alone is we spent \$1400 dollars in one month for people that are going through withdrawals. From 2022 to 2023 we saw 100 inmates that tested positive for opioids. In just one month we have had 22 people that have tested positive.

Our increase is going up higher on the people who are coming into our facility that are coming off opioids and going through withdrawals. When I talk about the \$1400 dollars that is just for to deal with the withdrawals which is whatever medication they give, Tylenol. It is not necessarily a mitigation process, it is just to get them to a point to where they cannot go through the withdrawals, but apparently, they must go on this protocol for five days before they are eligible for the injections. and then once the injections are done, they are no longer suffering from withdrawals.

The key to it is these people are already captive into our system because they are an inmate and they want to get clean at the time once they get out typically they no longer had that desire because they want to go back to running with the people that they ran with before but my philosophy is if we can get them into the protocol while they are in our facility maybe they will continue that protocol once they get out.

We have talked with the vendor, and he said that they would guarantee one month or two once they are released to get into another facility without them having to pay for it. They will cover the cost once they get out of the facility for up to two months. If we are using their drug there are some benefits from it and Crossing and Heritage both provide this medication for opioids addictions. What we can't do is mitigate with some of the drugs that they are using like methadone they are not as easy to do in the jail because they are a control substance and it is just a supplement to get them off. I would definitely be interested to see what the use can be used for. I am not opposed to getting into an agreement with one of those two vendors to come to the jail and provide that but there has to be some kind of agreement for them to provide that service to us, but we have jail staff who can do the protocols and can provide the injections. Our staff said they are comfortable with doing it.

Public Comment – None

Closed Session – None needed.

NEXT MEETING _____ April 27, 2023

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Mattingley @ 3:15 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Crystal Hugger, Macon County Board Office